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TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 11 February 1955

FROM : Chief, Foreign Documents Division

SUBJECT: Coverage of material on the Baltic Republics by FDD and FBID

REFERENCE: Memorandum of 25 January 1955 to Assistant Director for Operations from Chief, Collection and Operations Division, AC of S, G-2

1. A survey has been made of coverage of the USSR Baltic Republics by FDD (Russian-language provincial newspapers for the 3 areas) and FBID (the Daily Report and the Economic Abstract Cards) for purposes of comparison.

2. FBID Daily Report coverage of these areas for a representative month is outlined in Appendix A. The Daily Report provided coverage of 36 items for this period. FBID Economic Abstract Cards coverage of these areas for a like period provided 90 items on the Baltic Republics out of a total of 4,000 items for the USSR as a whole, according to a survey conducted by FBID.

3. FDD coverage of the Baltic Republics for a one-month period is outlined in Appendix B. Only the three Russian-language newspapers, Soviet Estonia, Soviet Latvia, and Soviet Lithuania were examined for purposes of this survey. A total of 429 items dealing with the Baltic Republics were exploited. This survey did not include items dealing with the Baltic Republics found in the (34) other USSR newspaper titles or (125) USSR periodical titles processed continuously by FDD. It is estimated that 20 percent of the items dealing with the Baltic Republics reported by FDD are to be found in these other sources.

4. From the standpoint of timeliness, the FBID information on the Baltic Republics, both in the Daily Report and the Economic Abstract Cards, is approximately one month old upon dissemination, whereas the FDD sources are approximately three months old upon dissemination. The length of individual items was not taken into account in estimating coverage by either FDD or FBID. In both cases the variation in length of individual items is substantial.

5. There were virtually no military items as such in the FDD Russian-language Baltic Republic newspapers for the month surveyed, and no mention of military items in the FBID Daily Report for the period surveyed. The FBID Economic Abstract Cards were excluded by definition.

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It is recognized, of course, that G-2 interests extend beyond order-of-battle items, and that some of this material may have been of value to them. By way of comparison, one recent issue of the FDD monthly USSR military summary contained 35 military order-of-battle items specifically dealing with the Baltic region, as well as numerous references to military personalities who may have been or are now assigned in this area.

6. FDD receives the FBID Daily Report, but not the FBID Economic Abstract Cards. There is some overlap of coverage, although individual items are rarely both broadcast and published. No attempt is made to avoid duplication of shorter items, and only rarely in the case of lengthy policy statements or articles, because FDD reporting is largely composed of lengthy compilations or collations arranged by subject for the whole USSR, in which items dealing with the Baltic Republics are related to similar events and activities elsewhere in the country. To exclude material partially reported by other services would adversely affect the quality of FDD reports from the standpoints of completeness and perspective.

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APPENDIX A

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SURVEY OF ITEMS ON THE BALTIC REPUBLICS
IN THE FBID DAILY REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1954
(issue of 6 September missing)

Total Items: 36

<u>Items by Republic</u>	<u>Date of Item</u>	<u>Point of Origin of Item</u>
Estonian SSR 18	June 1	Tallin 14
Latvian SSR 9	July 5	Riga 8
Lithuanian SSR 9	August 23	Vilnyus 7
	September 7	Moscow 7

<u>Language of Item</u>	<u>Subject of Item</u>
Estonian 6	Political 10
Latvian 5	Economic 14
Lithuanian 3	Sociological 7
Polish 3	Biographic 3
Russian 12	Scientific 2
Not indicated 7	

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APPENDIX B

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FDD EXPLOITATION OF BALTIC REPUBLIC
NEWSPAPERS FOR AUGUST 1954

Total items: 429 (all in Russian)

Items by Republic

Estonian SSR	140
Latvian SSR	146
Lithuanian SSR	143

Items by Subject

Economic	293
Biographic	71
Sociological	63
Military	2

Subjects by Area

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Estonian SSR</u>	<u>Latvian SSR</u>	<u>Lithuanian SSR</u>
Economic	101	93	99
Biographic	18	28	25
Sociological	19	25	19
Military	2	0	0

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